

# Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 23, 1886.

## DRUGWUMPISM.

The Leavenworth Times complains, and bitterly, that the Topeka Capital and Atchison Champion persist in defending the grog shops—drugwump stores—of their respective localities. The idea of a paper, published in a city where a jury, in defiance of unimpeached and undisputed testimony, and in the face of the open door of a notorious saloon, returned a verdict of not guilty, should charge conspicuous prohibitory organs with catering to the whisky trade, is an article bursting full of fun. If Dan Anthony would remove a large gate post or two from his own eyes he might more properly attempt the description of the small splinters which seem, in his judgment, to be irritating the visual organs of his two brothers respectively. The Times of yesterday says:

"The Times is in this fight to stay, and if every administration organ in Kansas joins the Capital and Champion in their defense of the whisky traffic, it will only give us renewed courage and strength in our fight for love and order. There is no compromise, and there will be no cessation of hostilities until the last whisky shop in Kansas is closed."

That kind of talk is very pretty, but not more pretty than cheap when confronted by the inexorable certainty that Leavenworth is the only city in Kansas that openly defies the constitution and laws of the state, but of its officers.

The Eldorado Republican at last acknowledges that touching the Winfield matter the EAGLE knew what it was talking about.

Correspondents and special dispatchers to the EAGLE will much oblige the telegraph editor if in announcing new railroad charters, "another bond proposition submitted," "dirt will commence to fly," etc., with the word "chestnuts."

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad proposes to adopt a new corporate name in which all reference to the state of Kansas will be dropped. Neither Atchison, Topeka or Kansas will figure hereafter in the name of the road.

It is stated that Sedgewick county wants to be a judicial district all by itself, that a new district will be formed this winter and is to be made up of Butler and one or two other counties. We believe our lawyers all favor the proposition.—Eldorado Republican.

Great distress prevails throughout the union because the "dignified editor" of the New York World has decided that a young lady may not permit "a young man, to whom she is not engaged, to kiss her." This is severe on affectionate brothers and other young men.

Cleveland pretends to be worrying himself over the question of the great surplus of cash in the United States treasury. If he would give the postoffice at Wichita a half-dozen more clerks and double the mail agents on all the Southern Kansas roads he could get rid of some of the surplus to great advantage to the people.

Henry Watterson: "We have no quarrel with the administration. But, wearing nobody's collar, we receive neither orders nor issues from anybody, and if Mr. Cleveland were fifty times the Democrat he claims to be, and twice the president he is, we should not deem it our mission to fall down and worship him, or our duty to withhold from the public any just discussion of his public utterances and acts. In the matter of civil service, as in the matter of general policy, we cannot agree with the administration, and we have behind us an army of Democrats in the west and south who are no better pleased than we are."

The recurrence of Whittier's birthday moves the Wilson County Citizen to remark that Kansas has named about forty counties in honor of soldiers (from privates to generals, including Jeff Davis), several after presidents, two or three to perpetuate the names of governors, some in honor of statesmen and politicians of different degrees of prominence, while the names of supreme court justices and naval officers, revolutionary pioneers, Indian tribes, free state martyrs and border ruffians have been linked to many other counties—but not a single American poet has thus far been recognized. Who has a better claim on Kansas honors than Whittier?

## NEUTRAL CITY.

To the Editor of the Eagle.

I had been hearing so much about the Neutral Strip or No Man's Land that last week finding myself in Garden City, which is the nearest practical railroad point to it, I concluded to take a trip south and look over the ground.

I took the southern stage line at Garden City, leaving there at 7:30 a. m. Monday. We crossed the Arkansas river on the new \$6,000 bridge and struck into the sand hills which for the first eight miles kept our four good horses sweating, even at a four mile gait, but the sand hills passed, we rolled out on the largest and most level tract of land in Kansas, comprising a plain forty-five miles north and south and seventy-five to eighty miles east and west without a single break in the whole expanse. It is a stretch of country that makes the railroad projectors hug themselves sincerely, especially if the line of their road is pointing south or southwest, as most of them seem to be.

The grading on a line here would be merely a matter of ditching on each side of the road bed.

Twelve miles south of Garden City we changed horses first and then whirled off a run of ten miles to Ivaloe, where dinner was served as well as another change of horses, which took us through Santa Fe to the lower stage road.

Here fresh horses, a good drink (of water) and another start which takes us on through the new town of Loco, which seems to have nothing against it but its

name, and Springfield, where while changing the mail we had a chance to look over the town. Springfield is a lively little town, with county seat aspirations as its chief lever through its scope of fine level country around it as sure as it a good trade from the farmers.

Two miles further on we "dropped over" the edge of the cañons of the Cimarron river, and a mile of smooth down grade brought us to the well built town of Fargo Springs, which lays on a kind of second bottom above the river. Fargo Springs like Springfield expects the county seat, and the only solution of the question seems to die in the decision of the supreme court, which met this month to decide the matter.

I met a man here who was on his way to Neutral City, and the regular stage running only once a week at present, we chartered a team and struck out the next morning on the main trail to No Man's Land, which leads through that place.

Three or four miles over a rolling prairie country with about a mile of medium sand road interspersed brought us out into a beautiful valley sloping southward, without a break to the south line of Kansas and north line of No Man's Land. We passed several loads of goods bound for Neutral City, and scores of large ricks of blue-stem hay, which grows here from six to eight feet in height and has been put up in large quantities, along with large crops of millet hay, sorghum or cane and corn-fodder, by the farmers of the valley who seem to be of a progressive sort. The further south we went the better the soil appeared and I began to feel that I should soon join the enthusiasts who had come before me and pronounced this the largest body of fine valley land in Kansas. The buffalo grass is the heaviest I ever saw, the loam being sandy as well as black makes it easy to work. We passed a small team of ponies walking a 12 inch plow through the sod at a two acre a day gait, and a smile on their faces at that.

We reached Neutral City at about ten o'clock and found matters lively, with the demand for everything in excess of the supply, however, though houses are going up rapidly, and stocks of hardware, groceries, dry goods and clothing have just begun to roll in, and will from all appearances be in good running shape before any bad weather sets in this winter.

The site of the town is simply superb, sloping gently as it does east and west from Broadway, the main street of the town. Any part of the site will drain itself. The streets are all wide, from 100 to 125 feet, and I soon began to take a lively interest in the "future great" of Southwestern Kansas, as the people confidently call it, though I did not express myself too strongly on that point until after I had picked out several lots and got the prices from Mr. W. V. Marshall, who represented the Neutral City Town company at Neutral City, of which he is a member. Something over half the Main street lots are already given away on building contracts or sold, and a list of the parties taking them showed me, the names of some of the most prominent railroad men, merchants and clear-sighted investors in Kansas.

Wichita and Hutchinson are well represented, as well as Winfield, Caldwell, Oswego, Topeka, Garden City, Cimarron and some from "way down east," had their share of soil.

The town has only been laid off a little over two months and starting so late in the season, the town company hardly expected to more than hold the ground this winter and be ready for the spring rush, but the recent opening up of the Neutral strip, or No Man's Land, two miles south, has started such an immigration through Neutral City, on which it relies for supplies and as a stopping point before locating over the line, that the trade will demand rustling all through the winter.

The Town Company are giving the best lots away to any one building a suitable business house or residence on them, and a great many are availing themselves of the chance, and at the same time they step over the line and take up a homestead claim within two or three miles of their place of business.

This plan strikes me so forcibly that you can about consider me located for the winter.

Firewood is piled up at all the houses in this vicinity and some loads of coal have already been hauled up from the big coal vein recently opened up in No Man's Land, southwest of here.

Before leaving the "outer world" I took particular pains to look up the railroads projected to this point, and as I had good assurance that the Rock Island will go out of the state at this point, the 101 parallel, and the lay of the country is against any other point, and favorable for this. I am willing to take my chances here, especially as three other railroads have already named this same point also, and as near as I can find out are holding property here.

The people are very anxious to help the town along, as their nearest trading point outside of here is Fargo Springs, seven miles northeast, a trip to which "makes them tired" they say.

Some of the Town Company and stockholders are Campbell & Huffman, Peabody, J. L. Horning, vice-president Kansas, Colorado & Texas R. R., at Winfield; W. S. Rogers, Wichita; E. B. Wingate, chief engineer of Border Line, Caldwell; A. E. Dickerman, president, Theodore Pierce, secretary, J. T. Van Voorhis, treasurer, and Thomas & Co., general agents 114 Main street Wichita, and a long list besides all of whom are working hard for the town, and seem to mean business. I hope to see some of my friends here soon.

A LOCATED PROSPECTOR.

Neutral City, Seward Co. Kan., Dec. 20.

## INDIAN TERRITORY AFFAIRS.

To the Editor of the Eagle.

FR. RENO, I. T., Dec. 20, 1886.

Until the advent of General Grant's administration no systematic policy of dealing with the Indians had really obtained. Treaties had been made with them during Johnson's term of office, and under the treaties the present policy was adopted. When General Sherman, Harvey, and the

other commissioners met the representatives of the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches, at the point where the city of Medicine Lodge now stands, in 1867, it was with a feeling on the part of the Indians at least, that the same old policy of fighting one year and treating the next, was to be maintained. So indifferent were many tribes that they barely had a representation at that council. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes in particular were so little concerned as to send only a few to represent their interests, and from the indifference then shown they have ever since suffered, in that the total population of the tribes was estimated from the relative numerical strength of each representation, and while the Cheyennes and Arapahoes far outnumbered any others, they were credited with the reason given with fewer members than the Kiowas and Comanches, who happened to be strongly represented, and all subsequent appropriations by congress for the support of the various tribes in this Territory, being based on the terms of the treaties there made, the consequence has been to give the smaller tribes the larger appropriations.

The terms of the treaty of 1867 provided for the education of all the children under a certain age, the establishment amongst them of schools, shops for repairs, a storehouse for clothing and annuities and instruction in agricultural pursuits. But contrary to the generally understood idea, not one dollar's worth of subsistence was guaranteed or even promised. Yet, probably under the opinion that it was and still is, cheaper to feed than to fight them, for the one was then contingent on the other, congress has annually appropriated large sums of money, usually aggregating about \$300,000 yearly, for the subsistence of these Indians. This is purely a gratuitous issue. No provision of any treaty provides for it, and the only warrant for it is the generous sentiment of the people as expressed by their representatives in congress.

The policy inaugurated by General Grant has been steadily, if not at all times thoroughly, kept as the controlling policy of our dealings with the Indian, and after seventeen years of trial, can be pronounced a greater success, than its most ardent associates at any time dared to hope.

That policy included the discipline of the warrior, as well as the Christianization of him, and so all outbreaks have been promptly met and vigorously put down. To this end the government has expended millions of money and valuable lives have been sacrificed, but the frontiers of Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Nebraska and other states bordering on the Indian reservations are enjoying a perfect immunity from the horrors of savage warfare. When once subdued the Indian has been taught the ways of civilization, and while progress is necessarily slow, the movement will gather speed as it progresses. The next step should be the allotment of land in severalty. Already a bill looking to this end has passed the lower house of congress. That measure, as there laid down, does not go far enough. It is a compromise, and compromises are fatal. The allotments should be compulsory in the discretion of the authorities, and not optional with the Indians. Too many of the older men are still living to exert their influence in opposition. There are too few progressive and enlightened Indians to make the law as indicated at present successful. There should be no exceptions. Certainly the object to be attained is the guarding of the just rights of the Indians by securing them homes in severalty, with the ultimate object of opening up of all left surplus, by the operation of the law to white settlement. Why should there be special exceptions made in favor of the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Creeks and others more capable, by far, of assuming all the duties of citizenship than those directly affected by this act. True, they hold their land in common, by patent from the government, while the others hold only by treaty or executive order. Special legislation may be needed to affect this and it may be necessary to purchase their surplus lands, but the great factor in the permanent settlement of the Indian question, is the incorporation in the body politic of these people; bring them from a state of wardship to citizenship, with all its rights and privileges, and making them amenable to the civil as well as to the criminal laws of the country.

The present policy of dealing with the wilder Indians contemplates scattering them by small colonies over the reservations, choosing for them the most arable lands, placing with each colony a practical farmer who shall have charge of them, as well as be instructor for them, and by encouragement and example locate each family upon a farm where subsequently he will build his cabin and gradually make the family the unit of organization, breaking up the band and tribal system, as it has heretofore existed. The project is feasible and good, but its success depends in a great measure, on the energy, ability and character of the instructor with each colony. These Indians are obedient, tractable and to a certain extent ambitious, under proper tutelage, but the wrong men can easily undo all the good that the right one has effected, and there are so few that understand human nature from the Indian standpoint that the success of the measure must always be a matter of anxiety to its projectors.

The progress herein claimed will be denied by many, doubted by more and can not be apparent to a casual observer, but those whose lines have been cast for years amongst these people can readily turn their minds back to the year 1870, and by comparison with the situation of today, realize the truth of what they once deemed almost impossible. Generations will yet succeed generations before the time will come when they will be considered fully reclaimed from all traits of barbarism, but the day is surely coming.

Both houses of congress adjourned yesterday for the holiday recess which is to last until Tuesday, January 4, 1887. Many of the members will visit their homes.

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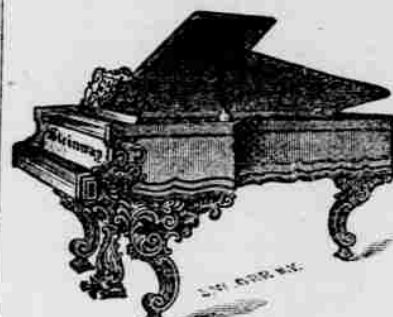
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